ST. PAUL'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

" The Epistle Pauline "

St. Paul's Digital Newsletter Volume 60, Number 10 October 2026

In its life and mission St. Paul's UCC seeks to worship the triune God; proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; practice loving service toward the needy; embody God's reign of peace and justice; establish a Christian community of faith; and be a faithful member of the church universal.

September Consistory Highlights from Barry Kulakowsky

Consistory met on Wednesday evening, September 9, 2026, beginning at 7:05 P.M. in Room 8. Rob Hettel shared a devotion.

MINISTER'S REPORT: Pastor Josh shared his three goals for the coming months. A new members class is offered for September 20th and 27th. State Trooper Julio Trejo will be presenting programs on Scams and on Active Shooter Preparedness.

TREASURER'S REPORT –	Total income for August	$61,336	$361,797 YTD
	Total expenses for August:	$54,308	$415,303 YTD
	Surplus/(Deficit)	$7,028	($53,506) YTD

Marlin Spotts shared the report of the Endowment Committee. The Committee determined to remain invested with the United Church Funds. The proposed distribution from both income and fund appreciation amounts to $14,101.60 to be distributed by the Consistory vote.

Curt Clifford shared the results from the Ad Hoc Custodian Accounts Study Committee and made one recommendation to the Consistory. A motion was made and passed to move the Guldin Trust Funds from Truist Bank to United Church Funds.

The Settled Pastor Committee will remain active until Pastor Josh is installed.
SPLASH reported that the original Eagle Scout Project to build wooden storage cubbies in the hallway, would now be the responsibility of the church. A motion was made and passed to defer the project for now.

The Peach Festival was a success, despite the peaches being not as flavorful as earlier years.

The Worship/Music committee shared some upcoming additions to our church calendar. Communion will be celebrated more often throughout the year, a brief mid-week Communion will be offered in the Chapel at 5:30 on Wednesdays, and during the procession/recession, a cross and the light will become part of the service.

Budget, Finance, & Stewardship chair Bill Falstich will present the 2027 budget at October's meeting. We expect to finish 2026 with a deficit and may have to project another budget deficit for 2027. If that is necessary, a list of recommendations to reduce spending and/or increasing revenue will be included.

Christian Education chair Wendy Elser reported that enough Sunday school teachers and several substitutes have been recruited. Marlin Spotts has retired as the Adult III teacher and the class has disbanded.
Church & Ministry Committee chair Brenda Haas reported that they hosted a "Meet and Greet' for all St. Paul's Staff. A part-time Youth Leader job description is being developed.

Evangelism Committee chair Kathy Weller reported on several activities that the committee is involved in including updating the church brochure, new member classes, a possible pictorial directory, and involvement at the Amity Harvest/250th Freedom Fest on October 17th.

Facilities Committee chair Doug Reinert, reported that the renovations on the Ladies Restroom are nearly completed. Wayne Elser has begun painting the window frames near the prayer garden and is looking for some help.

Fellowship chairperson, Michelle Stern, invited all to the Sunday School picnic on Sunday, September 13th.

A motion to purchase a one-month Small Games of Chance License to allow us to hold the Basket Raffle at the Craft Vendor Sale was made and passed.

Our next Consistory meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2026.

From Pastor Josh

Dear Friends in Christ,
I greet you after being with you a month now. It has been such a blessing and honor to be doing ministry together. I have had some conversations about how we as a church fit into the United Church of Christ as a whole. So, I wanted to share some thoughts with you on that very topic.
One of the blessings of the United Church of Christ is the way it holds together both Christian unity and local freedom. This is often called our polity or the way the church is organized and makes decisions.

In the United Church of Christ each local congregation has a great deal of autonomy. That means a local church governs its own ministry under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. A congregation calls its own pastor, elects its own leaders, manages its own finances, property, and prayerfully determines how it will carry out its worship, teaching, mission, and ministry in its own community.
This does not mean that a church is isolated or unconcerned with the larger church. Rather, UCC congregations voluntarily choose to walk together in covenant. We are connected with neighboring churches through our local association, with churches across our region through the conference, and with the wider United Church of Christ through our shared mission and ministry.
Because local churches have autonomy, UCC congregations, like St. Paul's do not all look alike. One church may hold a more progressive theological perspective, while another may hold a more conservative theological perspective. In fact, it is possible for two UCC churches on the same block to worship differently, teach differently, and emphasize different theological convictions—while both remain part of the United Church of Christ.

This freedom is not meant to divide us. It is meant to recognize that Christ is Lord of the Church, and that faithful believers may sometimes understand certain matters differently. We are united not because every congregation agrees on every issue, but because we confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and seek to serve Him in the world.

The UCC has long expressed this hope in the phrase, "That they may all be one," drawn from Jesus' prayer in John 17:21. Jesus prayed that His followers would be one, not merely for their own sake, but so that the world might see God's love at work among them. For our congregation, this means we are free—and responsible—to remain faithful to the biblical convictions God has placed upon us. We may preach the gospel, teach the Scriptures, worship, and serve according to the theological understanding we believe is faithful to God's Word and to the calling of Christ upon our church. At the same time, we remain connected to

a larger family of churches for fellowship, mutual encouragement, mission support, disaster response, ministry resources, and shared witness.

Autonomy is therefore not independence without accountability. It is freedom exercised prayerfully, humbly and faithfully within a covenant relationship. We do not have to agree on every matter in order to recognize one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. We are called to speak the truth in love, serve our neighbors, and bear witness to Jesus in the places where God has planted us.

May we be grateful for the freedom we have as a local congregation and may we use that freedom well for the glory of God, the strengthening of Christ's Church and the good of our community.
Yours In Christ
Pastor Josh

Contact Pastor Josh:
Cell phone: 715-294-0157 (text ok)
Church Office: 610-689-9364
Email: pastor@stpaulsuccamity.org,
Schedule an appointment using the link here https://bit.ly/3SyZQE0
If you see Pastor's truck in the parking lot he is in his office - come in and visit!

Church Office Hours

The church office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 8:30 - 11:30. Pastor Josh will also be available during additional hours. Please call him (715.294.0157) to schedule an appointment.

Prayer Requests

Marlene Dadey will be available prior to the service each week to take your prayer requests. This will be in lieu of calling out prayer requests during the service. She will write down the name of the person(s) you are requesting prayers for and give them to Pastor Josh.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to sponsor the altar flowers or a special bouquet, please contact the church office, office@stpaulsuccamity.org, Altar flowers are $67.50 and special bouquets start at $50.

Bible Study on "The Chosen" – Season 4 Tuesdays in the Chapel

The Bible promises that God brings good things out of bad things for the sake of His

people and for His glory. But, when we personally experience suffering, we have a difficult time believing it. Just as it was for the early followers of Jesus, suffering is a painful reality of life. But the hard things we experience are always eclipsed by the bigger acts of our God.

Join us for Season 4 of the groundbreaking TV series about the life of Jesus beginning. All are welcome! It doesn't matter if you haven't seen Season 1-3, but the DVDs are available if you would like to borrow them.

First Responders Sunday Planned for October 11 - Missions Committee

Please join us for our First Responders Appreciation Day on Sunday, Oct 11. First responders will be recognized during the service with a short blessing of the vehicles outside and a lunch to follow in FLMC.

Let's show all our First Responders how much we appreciate all they do for us to keep us safe. If you have a family member or neighbor who is a first responder, please invite them.

We are asking for an RSVP to office@stpaulsuccamity.org with number attending

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Amity Township 2026 Harvest/Freedom Festival

Join the Evangelism Committee and Youth Group on Saturday, October 17th from 12:00-7:00 PM in the Middle School end of Community Park for the Amity Township Harvest/Freedom Festival.

There will be a massive bounce park for the kids along with pumpkin painting and face painting, live music, food trucks as well as civic group food choices & local vendors. Fireworks at 7:00 PM.

Come support your community and meet them where they are.

October Fellowship from Michelle Stern

October 18 AND October 25.
If you would like to donate a snack, Your contribution will help make this a wonderful celebration & greatly appreciated.

Contact Michelle Stern. Come enjoy some good food, great conversation, and fellowship.We look forward to seeing you there! Food • Fun • Fellowship • Family

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Fall Craft Event October 24th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Our craft event is only a month away. At this point we have 37 confirmed crafters/vendors and more applications pending. We are asking our church family to help us in the following ways:

We need to get the word out to the community. When you see the event on Facebook, like and share. We have found this is the best way to advertise, and it's free! Tell your family, friends, and neighbors about this awesome event and that it supports a great church.
Sign up to make your favorite soup and help us exceed last years' sales, which was almost $1400.00. To do this, we need at least 140 quarts of soup. Soup containers are available on the table in the library with the sign-up sheet.

While you are at the sign-up table, don't forget to add your name to bake your favorite goodies. We offer complimentary refreshments to anyone who comes through our doors as a sign of hospitality. This is one of the favorite parts of the event for a lot of our participants. Come out the day of the event and share in the fellowship, perhaps start some Christmas shopping!

Ladies Aid will be making shoo-fly pies & committee members will be making apple crisp to sell.

Applications to participate in the sale are available on the bulletin board in the foyer, on the table in the library, or contact Kathy Weller. Spaces are $25 each, limit of two spaces. Deadline is October 3rd to sign up.
If you have any questions, please reach out to Kathy Weller.

Soup Sale - at the 5th Annual Craft/Vendor Sale October 24th from 9 AM - 3 PM.

We are again looking for all of you wonderful cooks to whip up a batch or two of your favorite soup for the Soup Sale that day. As in the past, we will provide the plastic quart containers for your soup. Last year we had about 138 quarts to sell. Let's see if we can break the record.

There will be a signup sheet in the library so that we can see what types of soup everyone is making. Please take one of the papers on "Cooling Soup Safely" so that we do not risk selling soup that is spoiled. Mark the type of soup on the top of the container with a marker or a sticker.

Deliver your soup, chilled or frozen, to Fellowship Hall on Friday 10/23 between 5 PM and 9 PM or Saturday 10/24 between 6:30 AM and 8:30 AM. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Hertzog.

Hoagie Sale

Each month the Bird Chapter of Order of the Eastern Star holds a hoagie sale to raise funds that help us make donations toward charity groups, help those in need within our community, and give out four local scholarships to graduating seniors.

Please consider placing a hoagie order with us each month. Orders are typically due by the second Friday of each month. Pickup is then the following Tuesday at 9 am in the church's Social Room.
Hoagies are made by Oliviero's on Park Lane in Douglassville. Cost is $10 each and there is an order form in the church library with all the details. Orders due by Friday October 16th with pickup being Tuesday October 20th. Questions, please reach out to Lois Reinert at 610-587-0392.

Circle of Friends

The St. Paul's Circle of Friends will meet in the FLMC Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 17th at noon for a light lunch and a presentation by Dana Bala, local historian, about the history of the kitchen.

Mark your calendar to make sure you're there for fun, food and friendship.

Missions Committee Updates

Our Blessing box continues to be a blessing to our community. We can always use the following items:

Blessing Box Items we can always use:

Pasta (all varieties)
Pasta sauce
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Pancake mix
Pancake syrup
Pet foods (wet and dry) If you want to donate a larger bag, put it in library and we will divide it into smaller bags for distribution
Baked beans
Tuna
Canned chicken
Dish soap, small bottles due to space
Laundry detergent, small bottles due to space
Individual size fruit cups and pudding (now that it's cooler out)

Caring Closet - We are continuing to collect INDIVIDUALLY packaged snack items for Caring Closet at Daniel Boone Schools. Please NO items with peanut butter or peanuts. Place them in the bin in the library.

Hopewell Love

We will start collecting 100 sticks of deodorant (men and women) for Hopewell Love's community closet. They put personal hygiene items in a pantry cabinet at St. Mark's Church and they can always use items. We are choosing to send deodorant to them! A bin will be in the library for donations.

Summertime Giving from Bill Falstich - Budget, Finance and Stewardship

As a reminder, the 2026 budget assumed a $25K deficit that we hoped to close within the year. Unfortunately so far that has not been the case. 2026 giving has been a bit lighter than expected, and our utilities and grounds bills have been much higher than expected. We've also completed some much-needed (and overdue) improvements to our facilities – including stripping and waxing of floors and repaving of the drive near the SPLASH entrance. As a result, as of July 31 our church is running a $60,000 year to date deficit.

Although we anticipate fall fundraisers will close part of the gap, the way we are trending means St. Paul's will finish the year with a pretty big deficit. We are asking for the congregation's help – please consider making an additional offering or two over the course of the next few months to help us finish the year strong.

We appreciate the congregation's generous giving, if those who are able can add a bit to it St. Paul's can continue to support the missions of the church.

Automatic giving is also a great way to keep your offerings coming throughout the year. If you are not signed up for this and would like to, please contact the financial secretary at financialsecretary@stpaulsuccamity.org. Missed offerings can also be placed together in one offering envelope. This makes it easier for our counters.

Capital Campaign Contributions

Please DO NOT include your Capital Campaign contributions with your weekly offering. Capital Campaign contributions go into a separate account. Please place Capital Campaign contributions in an envelope marked "Capital Campaign". Thank you for your cooperation.

Guldin Trust

Are you an active member of St. Paul's UCC in Amityville and will be attending a form of higher education or training this coming school year? You might qualify for a scholarship through the Guldin Trust.

The scholarship information and requirements can always be found on the church's website and, come the end of August, paper copies will be in the main office. All applications are due to the Guldin Trust mailbox in the church's office by November 15th at the latest.

So, there is plenty of time for you to be active and involved in church services and activities and to be sure you have an application in hand prior to starting back at college or trade school.

Christian Ed News from Marlene Dadey

Sunday School Classes – All children ages 3 (by 9/1/26) through seventh grade are invited to join us for the beginning of the worship service. The children may sit in the front pews with their teachers' of the week. Following the Children's Sermon by Pastor Josh they will be dismissed to their classrooms. Parents may pick them up following worship.

Sunday School Information Paper – Parents if you haven't already completed a form with your child's information, please do so as soon as possible. The form is available on our website (at the bottom of the page): www.stpaulsuccamity.org or ask your child's teacher or Marlene Dadey for the form.
This form allows us to get in touch with you if needed and lets us know about any allergies or concerns we should be aware of.

Adult Sunday School – Adult II and Adult III meet Sunday mornings from 8:30 – 9:30 each week. Adult II is led by Barry Kulakowsky and meets in Room 10. Adult III is led by Dick Flickinger and meets in Room 11.

SPLASH News – We are off to a great start this fall. Miss Laura, Miss Dana, and Miss Ahnika are back to their regular schedule. We have a few less students this fall due to some children aging out of the program.

Please share about our before and after school program with neighbors and friends in the Daniel Boone District. We are not your typical childcare program. Children in kindergarten through eighth grade enjoy lots of fun activities before and/or after school.

Nourish Our Neighbors – This year the Southeast Berks Ministerium decided to not participate in Church World's Services CROP Walk. Instead they hosted a walk, Nourish Our Neighbors on September 20. It was a rainy morning, but the rain stopped long enough for the participants (85!) to enjoy food, fellowship and the walk. Over $9300 was raised.

All of the proceeds will remain right here in our area and be distributed by Hopewell Love. Hopewell Love does an incredible job helping those in need in our area with food, rental assistance, housing, utility bills, and much more. Thank you to all who donated. St. Paul's raised the most money of the churches in the ministerium.

Scouting America News Troop 597 October 2026 from Scott Weller

We are back in full swing as we start another year of scouting at St Paul's. We had another scout complete their Eagle Project, as Evie Schiel held a sports clinic at the end of September for the blind and visually impaired at Kutztown University. Evie is coming down the home stretch on her path to Eagle! We also held a very successful Scout Derby in late September which was held at the church. We have quite a few prospective new scouts that attended and are considering joining our scouting program.

We will kick off October with our first Court of Honor of the new scout year on 10/5. Our scouts will be awarded with all the merit badges and rank advancements they earned at summer camp and throughout the summer. This will also be the night our new junior leadership of the troop are installed in their positions. This round of position changes was handled through elections, allowing the scouts to step up and elect their own leaders within their peers rather than the adult leadership assigning those positions. This exciting shift empowers our scouts to truly take full ownership of running their troop and planning for its future.

We will have a Leadership Day on Saturday 10/10 where our adult troop leaders will work with the newly installed junior leaders to help prepare them for leading the troop over the upcoming year. This is a critical piece of the program that will help these young adults lead their troop as they enter these leadership roles, with the oversight and guidance of the adult leadership team as their safety net.

You will also see the troop at Amity Township's Harvest Fest (Freedom Fest) for the first time on Saturday 10/17! Stop by and say hello and try some of the cobbler that the scouts will be cooking in dutch ovens. We will be set up right next to the church booth.

Our October camping trip will be to Valley Forge where we will tent camp and do a hiking tour of this historic area. The troop has not camped at Valley Forge for some time, so this will be a new trip and fresh experience for our current group of scouts.

We'll wrap up the month with our annual Halloween party during our last Monday night meeting. Scouts will be encouraged to dress up in costume and will enjoy games and snacks.

If you, or any of your relatives, were past members of the Troop at any time, and you have any memorabilia or pictures you'd like to share please reach out to Scott Weller (smweller721@yahoo.com). We'd love to add pieces of Troop history to our display case at the church.
Our Troop is open to any youth, boy or girl, between the ages of 11 and 18 who wants to strengthen their leadership and life skills while having fun in the outdoors. Our leaders have extensive training and experience and are always looking to bring out the best in each youth member.
If your son or daughter is interested in joining Scouts, please contact us (Brian Welch - 610-698-5924) or stop during a Monday night meeting between 7-8pm. If you have a child in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade that is interested in joining the scouting program, our Cub Pack would love to have you.

Check out our Facebook pages for information and to see more of what we do. If you would like to help as an adult, we can always use another pair of hands so please reach out if you are interested!

Thank you to the Communications Committee!

Last year after the departure of Pastor Steven the Communications Committee was formed to publish the weekly announcements (Weekly Word) and newsletter (The Epistle Pauline). At that time it was not feasible for the office to continue to do these publications with the extra work due to the pastor's departure. I would like to personally thank Kay Nyman for agreeing to take on this project and for Wendy Elser, Rob Hettel, Heidi Pennypacker and Matthew Nonnemaker for joining her to make these weekly and monthly publications possible.

Now that we have a settled pastor some of the office jobs that were required over the past eighteen months are again being shared. Pastor Josh and I decided we are willing to take back the publication of the weekly announcements and newsletter.

So beginning in October you will no longer receive The Weekly Word. Instead you will receive an email with the Sunday bulletin which will include the weekly announcements. The bulletin will go back to the way it was with two folded pages instead of one.

The November newsletter will be mailed out at the end of the month. Both publications will be uploaded to the website.

October Birthdays

October 2 Sue Davidson, Wayne Elser, Doris Johnson, Marin Krause Dennis Morgan
October 3 Karen Kulakowsky
October 4 Samantha Armstrong, Daniel Spotts
October 5 Charlotte Trejo
October 6 William Stutzman
October 8 Sandy High
October 10 Jamie Haupt, June Pizzollo
October 11 Robert Hettel
October 12 Donald Breitenstein, John Hartline Thomas Swanson
October 13 Sophia Carrera, Linda Okuniewski, Tim Prout
October 14 Bettee Mooney
October 15 Tyler Czeiner
October 16 Emily Dunning, Betsy Groller
October 19 Marlin Spotts
October 21 Susan Lincoln
October 22 Rich Zuber
October 24 Mat Bolles
October 27 Anna Miller
October 28 Beverly Breitenstein, Steve Tomaszewski
October 29 Sharon Haller, Grace Kulakowsky
October 30 Tanya Weller
October 31 Joel Conrad

October Anniversaries

October 1 Joseph & Sue Ceklosky
October 2 Chas & Nancy Everhart
Rick & Samantha Henry
Scott & Tanya Weller
October 5 Billy & Kristi Harrison
October 6 Lynn & Paul Eschbach
October 12 Peter & Marlene Dadey
October 13 Jeffrey & Renee Kline
October 13 Garry & Carol Labe
October 16 David & Karen Nusher-Creasy
October 18 Dave & Tiffany Dunning
October 23 Pat & Jenn Leady
Hap & Heidi Pennypacker
October 28 Mark & Nadine Hummel
John & Diana Yarrish
October 30 Chad & Alyssa Geist
Brett & Beth Krause

October Greeters

October 4 Paul & Lynn Eschbach
October 11 Nancy Houck
October 18 Susan Lincoln
October 25 John & Doris Johnson

October Scripture Readers

October 4 – Erin Pingitore
October 11 – Autumn Herbst
October 18 – Sheila Martin
October 25 – Tess Ulrich

October Scriptures for your Reading

October 4
Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20
Philippians 3:4b–14
Matthew 21:33–46

October 11
Exodus 32:1–14
Philippians 4:1–9
Matthew 22:1–14

October 18
Exodus 33:12–23
1 Thessalonians 1:1–10
Matthew 22:15–22

October 25
Jeremiah 31:31–34
Romans 3:19–28
John 8:31–36

Online Giving & Donations

It's easy to give on any device ....
https://stpaulsuccamity.churchcenter.com/giving

Or Scan the QR Code to the right

You may also go to our website www.stpaulsuccamity.org and click on "Giving" at the top. An easy way to be sure your offerings are received monthly is to enroll in "automated giving."

At the bottom of the website you can access a form to be completed and mailed to the attention of our financial secretary under "Quick Links Automated Giving Enrollment Form."

This edition of the monthly newsletter was prepared by Kay Nyman

November Newsletter Deadline: Friday, October 25, 2026.

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